GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:313
ANSWERED ON:24.03.2005
USE OF UN-MINABLE COAL BY ONGC
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Nikhil Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC proposes to use un-minable coal for liquid fuel and fuel gas through underground coal gasification technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether ONGC has identified the locations where un-minable coal is available in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the extent to which the un-minable coal gasification technology would be cheaper and meet energy needs of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 313 BY SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY AND SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 24TH MARCH 2005 REGARDING USE OF UN-MINABLE COAL BY ONGC

(a) & (b) : Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) have signed an Agreement of Collaboration (AOC) with the Skochinsky Institute of Mining-National Mining Research Centre (SIM-NMRC), Moscow on 25.11.2004 for Underground Coal Gasification(UCG).

The AOC envisages cooperation in the following areas:

- Sharing technical know-how and technologies related to UCG.
- Development and application of expertise in UCG technologies.
- Establishing technical feasibility through field demonstrations for different geological, hydrological and environmental conditions.
- Establishing the commercial feasibility of the process through a pilot project.

(c) & (d) : The AOC having been signed, the areas for undertaking UCG pilot projects would be firmed up in consultation with the SIM-NMRC.

(e) : The cost of the gas is dependent on several factors like depth, thickness, quality, etc., of coal seams. The project is at the preliminary/starting stage and it would be premature to precisely indicate the price.